

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

(001) As generally described above, a paper handling aid 10 is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 according to the first preferred embodiment of the invention. Paper handling aid 10 comprises a substantially planar base membrane 20 having an array of protuberances 22 formed on a first surface thereof. Protuberances 22 are substantially equal in height as measured from the first surface of membrane 20. The height of protuberances 22 is left to the discretion of the designer and is, for example, 0.6 mm (0.025 inches). Protuberances 22 further assist the user in separating and lifting the edges of paper sheets being sorted or otherwise handled. Base membrane 20 and protuberances 22 are formed, for example, by injection molding or casting, from a flexible, elastomeric material characterized by a relatively high coefficient of friction against paper. The coefficient of friction against paper is preferably in the range of from 0.50 - 0.90, and more preferably approximately 0.85. Examples of elastomeric materials of which the paper handling aid of the invention may be formed are latex rubber and polyurethane resin. A coating of an adhesive 24 is applied to a second surface of base membrane 20, opposed to the first surface on which protuberances 22 are formed. Adhesive layer 24 is illustrated by dashed lines for reasons of clarity. The applied adhesive 24 is formulated so as to adhere substantially permanently to base membrane 20 and to adhere releasably to the skin of a user. In particular, when paper handling aid 10 is removed from the skin, no residue of adhesive 24 remains on the skin. Preferably, adhesive 24 is hypo-allergenic so as not to cause irritation of the skin which it contacts. Adhesive 24 is also formulated to be capable of multiple uses, that is, paper handling aid 10 may be applied to and removed from the skin of the user multiple times. An adhesive that is hypo-allergenic and serves the requirements of the present invention is designated as No. 597 by MACTac Division of Bemis Corporation.